

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 05031 071235Z

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ACTION EUR-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 W

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P R 071215Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7761

USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BELGRADE 5031

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, YO, OGEN

SUBJECT: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EXHIBIT BROCHURE

REF: BELGRADE 5001; STATE 216837

1. PAO RAISED PROBLEM LIMITATION BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION AT FSFA NOVEMBER 6 WITH KOVACEVIC, ACTING HEAD OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED SECTION OF INFO AND CULTURE, TO WHOM REFERRED BY ZUPAN. ALSO DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH GRUBOR OF AMERICAN DESK. IN BOTH CASES, REPRESENTATION MADE ALONG LINES REFTEL, ADDING COMMENT THAT US HAS ALWAYS ENCOURAGED AND ASSISTED YUGOSLAV INFORMATION EFFORTS, WITNESS OFFERS TO ASSIST EXHIBITS AND OTHER PROGRAMS MADE TO CULTURAL DELEGATION DURING RECENT VISIT.

2. BOTH REPEATED STATEMENT MADE BY CUDINA THAT RESTRICTION NOT DIRECTED AT US AND EXPRESSED HOPE WOULD NOT BE SO INTERPRETED. PAO REPLIED THAT IRREGARDLESS OF DIRECTION, ALL RESTRICTIONS ON LEGITIMATE, FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION CONSIDERED UNFORTUNATE BY US. IN REPLY, KOVACEVIC STATED "UNFORTUNATELY, YUGOSLAVIA AS SMALL, NON-ALIGNED AND INDEPENDENT COUNTRY WAS NOT IN SAME POSITION AS GREAT POWER LIKE US. YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN DECISION TO LIMIT MASSIVE FOREIGN INFORMATION ACTIVITY IN YUGOSLAVIA TO MORE REASONABLE LEVEL ONLY AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION AND THIS WAS ITS RIGHT AS SOVERIGN STATE."

3. PAO REPLIED THAT 31,000 COPY DISTRIBUTION SEEMED VERY REASON-
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PAGE 02 BELGRA 05031 071235Z

ABLE FOR THREE EXHIBITS, GIVEN FACT THAT, BASED ON PREVIOUS

EXPERIENCE, ATTENDANCE WILL RUN UP TO THREE TIMES THAT NUMBER.
BROCHURE CONTAINED VALUABLE INFORMATION FOR QUALIFIED
PROFESSIONALS IN FIELD AND NOT INTENDED FOR INDISCRIMINATE
DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, LIMITATION TO 5,100 COPIES FOR THREE
EXHIBITS REDUCTED DISTRIBUTION TO LEVEL AT WHICH BROCHURE PRODUCTION
NO LONGER RATIONAL. CONCLUDED BY LEAVING COPY LETTER TO CUDINA
REQUESTING APPROVAL DISTRIBUTION LEVEL ORIGINALLY REQUESTED.
BOTH KOVACEVIC AND GRUBOR AGREED THIS WAS STEP TO BE TAKEN
THIS POINT.

4. SO FAR CHECKING WITH FRIENDLY MISSIONS HAS FAILED TO PRODUCE
SIMILAR EXPERIENCE LIMITATION
DISTRIBUTION. HOWEVER, NONE
FOUND WHO HAVE MADE RECENT EFFORT AT MASS DISTRIBUTION. SINCE
CUDINA AND KOVACEVIC IMPLIED RESTRICTION RESULT OF RECENT
DECISION, WE SEE NO REASON TO ASSUME THAT ITS INTENT IS TO
DISCRIMINATE EXCLUSIVELY AGAINST US INFORMATION EFFORTS.
TOON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATION, PUBLICATIONS, INFORMATION CONTROL, EXHIBITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: collinp0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BELGRA05031
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731150/aaaabkxc.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BELGRADE 5001; STATE 216837
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: collinp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Oct-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by collinp0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY EXHIBIT BROCHURE
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005